United Nations E/AC.51/2018/L.4/Add.5

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
27 June 2018

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Fifty-eighth session
4–29 June 2018
Agenda item 7
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-eighth session

Draft report

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Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation

(*Item 3 (c)*)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

1. At its 7th meeting, on 6 June 2018, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) (E/AC.51/2018/5 and E/AC.51/2018/5/Corr.1).

2. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with representatives of UN-Women, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed their appreciation for the useful report produced by OIOS and its positive assessment that all four recommendations from the evaluation had been implemented, noting that the assessment was comprehensive and valuable. Appreciation was also voiced for the efforts of UN-Women in implementing the recommendations and, more broadly, for its contribution to the achievement of United Nations goals and objectives.

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4. A delegation commented on the important role of monitoring, evaluation and auditing in the work of UN-Women. A delegation also noted the added value of the work of OIOS, highlighting the quality of the programme evaluation and the usefulness of the subsequent recommendations. A delegation noted the electronic survey of a non-random sample of UN-Women staff used in the review methodology, which had yielded a response rate of 38 per cent and possibly encouraged more staff engagement.

5. Delegations expressed broad support for UN-Women, noting the important and central role that it played in the United Nations system in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women. Delegations also commended UN-Women for the steps that it had taken to work and coordinate with its partners in the United Nations system to advance those goals. In that regard, a delegation noted that while cooperating, each partner had had to keep to its respective mandate in order to avoid duplication and provide support in accordance with its expertise. One delegation highlighted the important role of UN-Women in promoting the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as for mainstreaming the human rights of women and girls into the work of the United Nations as a whole. The delegation also commented that UN-Women had a unique added value in the United Nations system owing to its singular focus on gender equality as a basic human right, which had to be further strengthened and operationalized. It was emphasized that ensuring gender equality was essential for building inclusive societies and achieving sustainable development for all, leaving no woman or girl behind.

6. Several delegations welcomed the implementation of recommendation 2, in which UN-Women was requested to enhance the synergies between its normative and operational work. It was pointed out that although the recommendation had been implemented, UN-Women should consider additional ways to enhance synergies that went beyond better sharing of information and learning of lessons, as emphasized in the report. A question was raised as to whether the 2018 annual guidance note on UN-Women strategic notes (ibid., para. 21) could be considered as the latest step to enhance synergies and whether more remained to be done.

7. Several delegations welcomed the implementation of recommendation 3, in which UN-Women was requested to strengthen communication and coordination between its headquarters and field offices. It was noted that although the recommendation had been implemented, UN-Women could strengthen the implementation of that recommendation, as indicated in the report and in the related comments by UN-Women. One delegation emphasized that positive feedback on the recommendation had been received at the country level. A delegation highlighted the indivisible nature of the work of UN-Women, noting, as an example, how the country offices provided a different dimension to that work and how, had it not had its field presence, UN-Women could have become a glorified think tank of the Commission on the Status of Women.

8. Delegations welcomed the implementation of recommendation 4, in which UN-Women was requested to clarify complementarities with its United Nations partners in implementing its mandate. One delegation welcomed the finding contained in the report that the number of joint United Nations programmes that dealt with gender equality had increased by 28 per cent between 2015 and 2016, becoming the first area of concentration of joint programmes.

9. Some delegations expressed their appreciation for the field presence of UN-Women, noting the positive impact of programming initiatives at the regional level and the synergies between regional and country offices, and calling for the continued and enhanced presence of the Entity at the country level.

10. Several delegations called for continued support for UN-Women, including adequate resourcing. A delegation welcomed the finding from the report that the Entity's non-core resources had increased from $88 million in 2011 to $180 million in 2017, and expressed the view that it would be beneficial to be proactive in mobilizing more non-core resources. A delegation noted the composite mandate of UN-Women and emphasized that all parts of its mandate should receive equal attention and funding.

11. The progress of some countries in the areas of gender equality and the empowerment of women was highlighted. A delegation expressed its appreciation for the way in which UN-Women engaged in liaison with Governments and kept them apprised of developments, and recommended that UN-Women collaborate with other United Nations entities that dealt with gender equality to make gender a cross-cutting issue.

Conclusions and recommendations

12. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of UN-Women, and expressed its appreciation to OIOS for the review.**

13. **The Committee expressed its appreciation for the implementation of the recommendations of OIOS by UN-Women, which had improved coordination and enhanced mandate implementation, including at the country level where requested by the host country, thereby strengthening the linkages between the normative and operational work of UN-Women.**

14. **The Committee welcomed the improvements made in the implementation of the normative framework at the regional and country levels and the enhancement of mutual cooperation between headquarters and field offices.**

15. **The Committee underlined that it was important that UN-Women continue to provide technical advice and support to the United Nations system on mainstreaming a gender perspective into its work and continue to lead, coordinate and promote accountability of the United Nations system in its support for Member States, at their request, in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.**

16. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage UN-Women to continue to increase its efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability in order to enhance the implementation of its mandate.**